

STATE FACTSHEET

Alaska



2017

For 14 years, members of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, fearing health effects from dioxin exposure, stopped harvesting clam and crab for food in the Ankau Saltchuk and closed their native culture camp. Alaska's Environmental Public Health Program (EHP) partnered with ATSDR to assess cancer and non-cancer risks from eating dioxin-contaminated seafood, conduct risk communication and health education in the community, and conducted a survey to evaluate the initiative's effectiveness. The initiative proved successful when a year later, the majority of the community resumed harvesting seafood.